

Thank you Chairman and Committee members for hearing my testimony on bill #981 to require adult size changing tables be added to public restrooms. This is an important bill that will fill the gap that is currently not meeting the needs of thousands of citizens that must wear protective disposable undergarments.

My name is Tram Nguyen, I'm 49 years old, a mom and full-time caregiver to my daughter Sadie. Sadie is 7.5 years old, she is 61 lbs and over 4 feet tall. She was diagnosed with a abnormal chromosomal anomaly which means she is medically complex with a lot of disabilities that makes her wheelchair bound due to low muscle tone and will always have to be diapered.

There is a gap in our legislation for public buildings to have safe and private adjustable adult size changing tables. ADA compliant bathrooms have toilet stalls for people who can use them. The BABIES act that was passed by Congress in 2015 helped put baby size changing tables into law for federal buildings cascading into several laws in states or ordinances in cities for other buildings. In 2016, federal regulations mandates all airlines needed to have pet relief areas for service animals and they are being implemented into airports across the US.

To give you an example of where there are NOT adjustable adult size changing tables:

- Government buildings –waiting for appointments (driver's, state id)
- Minnesota Rest Areas or Visitor Centers
- Minnesota Parks and Recreational facilities
- Public Libraries & Schools (primary and colleges)– which where a lot of these public buildings are used for voting
- Medical and hospitals – Some have like Gillette but Mayo does not have because they don't realize the need. Our state brings in a lot of visitors as a top notch medical state
- Large sporting/concert venues – New Allianz field and Viking Stadium

Places that I've had to change my daughter:

- Floor of a handicap bathroom stall where the privacy walls do not go to the floor. Others can see in and wonder what I'm doing.
- Change in our van with the door open – no faucet or cleaning space.
- Out in a grassy knoll in the park where everyone can see.

None of these options provide privacy and are not safe. Deadlifting a person weighing 60-100 pounds is not safe for caregivers or the child/adult.

Covid highlighted the affects of isolation and many people with disabilities already have enough obstacles. Many of us bypass invitations to meet our friends and family for fear of NOT having a place to change our loved ones.

Please help us remove one of the biggest obstacles and allow all inclusion to get out into our communities and flourish.

We have a growing aging population with some of adults needing assistance with diaper changes from getting a stroke, Alzheimer's, or veterans who get wounded and become paralyzed. My father fell ill at 65 with a rare autoimmune disease called Scleroderma. He briefly had to be diapered before he passed. My father felt like he lost a lot of his dignity with having to be diapered already and then to have to sit in a wet/dirty diaper was just salt to the wound when there's no where to be changed.

I know that you represent citizens with small businesses ranging from big cities to rural areas. My parents used to own a restaurant and my mom had said if this was the law and the table would have cost as low as \$3K she would have put it and been happy to see families like ours to be able to get out and share in a meal for a birthday etc. I know that I would support my local businesses MORE if I had the changing table option and I know many other families that would as well. We want to be included in family celebrations.

Four other states have passed the state law (AZ, CA, NH, and TN) several other states like MN have bills in front of them. Please be a leader as this movement moves across our nation and give our loved ones a humane option to be able to have a safe place to be changed.

